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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
**INFORMATION REPORT**

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COUNTRY	USSR	REPORT	
SUBJECT	1. Soviet Shipping Companies 2. Soviet Tankers	DATE DISTR.	22 September 1954
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

**BY CABLE**

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
 THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
 (FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. The headquarters of the Black Sea Shipping Company is located in Odessa, and the Baltic Sea Shipping Company headquarters is in Leningrad. The headquarters of the North Sea Shipping Company is at Arkhangelsk and the Far East Shipping Company headquarters is in Vladivostok.
2. Agents of the MVD are located in the headquarters and offices of the various shipping companies as well as aboard individual ships.
3. Soviet citizens can obtain tickets for foreign travel only through the MVD in Moscow. On entering or leaving the Soviet Union no one is excluded from the customs inspection, at which time a very thorough search is conducted.
4. Tickets to travel via Soviet inland waters may be purchased directly from the offices of the shipping company. No explanation or display of documents is required and no one is searched while traveling via inland waters.
- 4 5. The Soviet tanker APSHERON was built [redacted] 1951-1952.<sup>1</sup> The Soviet tankers VOLGADON, MAYKOP and GROZNYI are sister ships. These tankers have a capacity of 10,000 tons each. They were built at Nikolayev between 1952 and 1954.<sup>2</sup>

1. [redacted] Comment: The tanker APSHERON and its sister ship, the TUAPSE, were [redacted] delivered to the USSR in 1953.
2. [redacted] Comment: Tankers with these names have been reported previously but not as modern tankers of 10,000-ton capacities. New 10,000-ton tankers have been built at the Marti Shipyard in Leningrad; however, the port of Nikolayev has facilities to construct vessels of this size.

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